

K-7123
UE 194A

NPIC/CSD-62/66
26 JANUARY 1966
PAGE 3

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
BAI THUONG AIRFIELD, NORTH VIETNAM
1954N 10528E
[REDACTED]

25X1

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD K-0824 FOR COMPARISON)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION AT BAI THUONG AIRFIELD, NORTH VIETNAM.

2. LOCATION:

THE AIRFIELD IS LOCATED FIVE NM EAST OF BAI THUONG AND TWENTY-FIVE NM WEST-NORTHWEST OF THANH HOA.

3. FIRST IDENTIFICATION:

[REDACTED] FIRST REVEALED AN AIRFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE BAI THUONG AREA.

25X1

4. NEGATION DATE:

NO AIRFIELD WAS OBSERVED ON PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] Declassification Review by NGA/DoD

25X1

5. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT SINCE CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON BAI THUONG AIRFIELD IN JUNE 1965, PROGRESS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SLOW. RUNWAY GRADING, EXTENSIVE DRAINAGE DITCHES, AND LATER, THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT REVEITEMENTS, HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER A PERIOD OF SEVEN MONTHS. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE NOT RUSHING THIS FIELD TO COMPLETION, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO FINISH IT SO THAT U.S. AIR STRIKES CAN DESTROY ITS USEFULNESS.

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PAGE 4

STRIKE DATA REPORTS THAT BAI THUONG AIRFIELD HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF AN AIR STRIKE AS EARLY AS JULY 1965, AND THAT IT HAS BEEN STRUCK AT LEAST ONCE SINCE THEN.

6. DIMENSIONS/SPECIFICATIONS:

ONE NORTHWEST/SOUTHEAST RUNWAY EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 6600 X 200 FEET.

7. MISSION READOUT:

UE 194A, 08 JANUARY 1966, REVEALS CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION AT BAI THUONG AIRFIELD. A DEFINITE RUNWAY DELINEATION IS OBSERVED WITH DIMENSIONS OF 6600 X 200 FT. SUBSURFACING MATERIAL IS BEING APPLIED TO THE ORIGINAL GRADED BASE OF THE RUNWAY. INITIAL APPLICATION OF THE FINAL RUNWAY SURFACE IS OBSERVED BEGINNING ON THE SOUTHEAST END OF THE RUNWAY. EXTENSIVE DRAINAGE PATTERNS ARE STILL APPARENT. INITIAL GRADING AND FOUNDATION EXCAVATION HAS BEGUN ON A TAXIWAY WHICH WILL PARALLEL THE RUNWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE. TEN EARTHEN AIRCRAFT REVETMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED, FIVE AT EITHER END OF THE RUNWAY. THESE TWO REVETMENT AREAS WILL BE CONNECTED BY THE NEW TAXIWAY.

AT LEAST NINE PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE NOTED IN A REVETMENT NEAR THE AIRFIELD. LARGE NUMBERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL ARE OBSERVED NEAR THE RUNWAY.

ONE OCCUPIED SIX-GUN AAA SITE IS OBSERVED AT THE SOUTHEAST END OF THE RUNWAY.

FIVE BOMB CRATERS ARE OBSERVED ON THE RUNWAY, AND BOMB DAMAGE IS OBSERVED AT THE BAI THUONG ARMY BARRACKS NORTHEAST ADJACENT TO THE NORTHWEST END OF THE RUNWAY.

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